

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" (arr. James Mansfield)

GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT

*Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come, hope of unity; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

People of God:
Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

▲ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (Hymn No. 93)
TRURO

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God,
we confess today that we have sinned against you,
and we have sinned against our neighbors.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
We have allowed our hearts to give in to despair and fear.
Lord, have mercy.
We have neglected to make space to pray.
Lord, have mercy.
We have let ourselves become too angry too quickly.
Lord, have mercy.
We have taken too much pride in our successes and accomplishments.
Lord, have mercy.
We have set the doing of chores and tasks above our relationships;
Lord, have mercy.
We have spent too much money in pursuit of happiness and comfort;
Lord, have mercy.
We have made our lives so busy that we are argumentative and defensive;
Lord, have mercy.
We have complained far too much about everything we don't like;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Hear our silent prayers of confession. *Silence is held.*

KYRIE

ALL SING (#579)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON + SHARING OF PEACE

WORD

▲ GATHERING SONG

*During this song, children are invited forward for a special message and blessing.
(Grownups are welcome to join their child if they're feeling a little nervous!)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND BLESSING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

PSALM 126 (MARTY HAUGEN)

My soul re-joic-es in my God, _____ my _____ soul re -

joic - es, _____ re - joic - es in _____ my God. _____

(Last time)

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Light of the World" (Lauren Daigle)

Soloists: Juniper Beuthin, Sydney Boughton, Peyton Champine, and Kira Nieman

▲ GOSPEL READING: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON

Rev. Paul Ytterock

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Hymn No. 82)
HYFRYDOL

OUR RESPONSE

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983)

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OFFERING AND CHORAL ANTHEM

“Creator of the Stars of Night” (Dale Wood)

*Creator of the stars of night, Thy people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Saviour of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.
To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan
Till thou, Redeemer, shouldst free Thine own in glorious liberty.
And when the world drew on toward night, Thou camest, not in splendor bright
As monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild.
At thy great name of Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
And things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial, Lord alone.*

*Come in thy holy might, we pray; redeem us for eternal day
From every power of darkness, when Thou judgest all the sons of men.
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

▲ **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (Hymn No. 144)
Verse 4
CRANHAM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

DEPARTING

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ **FACING EAST**

"While We Are Waiting, Come" (#92)
WHILE WE ARE WAITING

▲ **CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

▲ **POSTLUDE**

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" (arr. Malcom Archer)